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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.	
09/665,065	09/19/2000	Kamel Shaath	38898-172161	5244	
26694	7590	03/26/2004	EXAMINER		
VENABLE, BAETJER, HOWARD AND CIVILETTI, LLP				KALINOWSKI, ALEXANDER G	
P.O. BOX 34385				ART UNIT	
WASHINGTON, DC 20043-9998				PAPER NUMBER	
				3626	

DATE MAILED: 03/26/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.	SHAATH ET AL.
09/665,065	
Examiner	Art Unit
Alexander Kalinowski	3626

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 19 September 2000.
2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-59 is/are pending in the application.
4a) Of the above claim(s) 14-37 and 47-59 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
6) Claim(s) 1-13 and 38-46 is/are rejected.
7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) All b) Some * c) None of:
1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 2,8-10.
- 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6) Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

1. Claims 1-59 are presented for examination.

Election/Restrictions

2. Restriction to one of the following inventions is required under 35 U.S.C. 121:
 - I. Claims 1-13 and 38-46, drawn to a method for managing the file lifecycle on a storage medium, classified in class 705, subclass 7.
 - II. Claims 14-37 and 47-59, drawn to a method of managing a file lifecycle in a virtual cabinet, classified in class 711, subclass 100. The inventions are distinct, each from the other because of the following reasons:
3. Inventions I and II are unrelated. Inventions are unrelated if it can be shown that they are not disclosed as capable of use together and they have different modes of operation, different functions, or different effects (MPEP § 806.04, MPEP § 808.01). In the instant case the different inventions. Invention I is directed to a method of managing file lifecycle on storage medium. Invention II is directed to a method of managing file lifecycle on virtual cabinets where the cabinets contain drawers that correspond to storage media for storing files based on policies associated with the storage media.
4. Because these inventions are distinct for the reasons given above and have acquired a separate status in the art as shown by their different classification, restriction for examination purposes as indicated is proper.

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5. Because these inventions are distinct for the reasons given above and the search required for Group I is not required for Group II, restriction for examination purposes as indicated is proper.
6. Because these inventions are distinct for the reasons given above and have acquired a separate status in the art because of their recognized divergent subject matter, restriction for examination purposes as indicated is proper.
7. During a telephone conversation with Ralph Albrecht on 3/19/2004 a provisional election was made without traverse to prosecute the invention of Group I, claims 1-13 and 38-46. Affirmation of this election must be made by applicant in replying to this Office action. Claims 14-37 and 47-59 are withdrawn from further consideration by the examiner, 37 CFR 1.142(b), as being drawn to a non-elected invention.
8. Applicant is reminded that upon the cancellation of claims to a non-elected invention, the inventorship must be amended in compliance with 37 CFR 1.48(b) if one or more of the currently named inventors is no longer an inventor of at least one claim remaining in the application. Any amendment of inventorship must be accompanied by a request under 37 CFR 1.48(b) and by the fee required under 37 CFR 1.17(i).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 101

9. 35 U.S.C. 101 reads as follows:

Whoever invents or discovers any new and useful process, machine, manufacture, or composition of matter, or any new and useful improvement thereof, may obtain a patent therefor, subject to the conditions and requirements of this title.

Claims 1-13 and 38-46 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101 because the claimed invention is directed to non-statutory subject matter.

The basis of this rejection is set forth in a two-prong test of:

- (1) whether the invention is within the technological arts; and
- (2) whether the invention produces a useful, concrete, and tangible result.

For a claimed invention to be statutory, the claimed invention must be within the technological arts. Mere ideas in the abstract (i.e., abstract idea, law of nature, natural phenomena) that do not apply, involve, use, or advance the technological arts fail to promote the "progress of science and the useful arts" (i.e., the physical sciences as opposed to social sciences, for example) and therefore are found to be non-statutory subject matter. For a process claim to pass muster, the recited process must somehow apply, involve, use, or advance the technological arts.

In the present case, the instant claims fail to recite the use of any type of technology (e.g. computer system) within the recited steps of the claimed method of managing file lifecycle. The recited steps constitute an idea on how to manage file lifecycle.

Mere intended or nominal use of a component, albeit within the technological arts, does not confer statutory subject matter to an otherwise abstract idea if the component does not apply, involve, use, or advance the underlying process.

Additionally, for a claimed invention to be statutory, the claimed invention must produce a useful, concrete, and tangible result. In the present case the claimed method recites steps for managing a file lifecycle on storage medium.

Although the claimed invention produces a useful, concrete and tangible result, since the claimed invention as a whole is not within the technological arts, as explained

above, claims 1-13 and 38-46 are deemed to be directed to non statutory subject matter. The Examiner suggests adding language within the body of the limitations in independent claims 1, 8 and 38 indicating that the limitations are carried out by the use of technology (i.e. computer system).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

10. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

11. Claims 1-13 and 38-46 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Shaath, Pat. No.

The applied reference has a common inventor and assignee with the instant application. Based upon the earlier effective U.S. filing date of the reference, it constitutes prior art under 35 U.S.C. 102(e). This rejection under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) might be overcome either by a showing under 37 CFR 1.132 that any invention disclosed but not claimed in the reference was derived from the inventor of this application and is thus not the invention "by another," or by an appropriate showing under 37 CFR 1.131.

As to claims 1, 8, and 38, 44-46, Shaath discloses A method of managing a file lifecycle comprising the steps of storing the file on a storage medium having associated therewith a set of policies relating to file storage locations (Fig. 7 and col. 4, lines 7-14 and line 64 – col. 5, lines 28); automatically determining from the associated policies when the file is to be moved (col. 4, line 64 – col. 5, line 28); and, moving the file to another storage location within a same or different storage medium when the file is to be moved (col. 5, lines 13-28).

As to claims 2, Shaath discloses A method of managing a file lifecycle according to claim 1 comprising the steps of providing a plurality of storage media including the storage medium, each having associated therewith a set of policies, the policies such that when a condition is met the file is transferred from one storage medium to another in accordance with a lifecycle stage of the file (i.e. archiving server ... cd-rom for archiving)(col. 5, lines 13-28).

As to claims 3, 9, 39, Shaath discloses A method of managing a file lifecycle according to claim 2 wherein a first storage medium is associated with active files and a last storage medium is associated with archived files and wherein the file is transferred from the first storage medium to the last storage medium in successive stages (col. 5, lines 13-28).

As to claims 4, 10, 40, Shaath discloses A method of managing a file lifecycle according to claim 3, wherein a file is automatically transferred to a storage medium

most appropriate for its stage of lifecycle determined in accordance with the policies (col. 5, lines 13-28).

As to claims 5, 11, 41, Shaath discloses A method of managing a file lifecycle according to claim 4 wherein the policies relate to at least some of the associated storage medium, the file name, the file extension, the file creation date, the file access date, the file last access date, the file creator, and the current file owner (col. 5, lines 13-28).

As to claims 6, 12, 42, Shaath discloses A method of managing a file lifecycle according to claim 1 wherein the step of storing the file on a storage medium comprises the step of determining, in accordance with the policies, expiration data relating to when the file is to be moved (col. 5, lines 13-28).

As to claims 7, 13, 43, Shaath discloses A method of managing a file lifecycle according to claim 6 wherein the step of automatically determining when the file is to be moved comprises the step of comparing the expiration data to present time data to determine if it is indicative of the file having expired its time on the storage medium or on the entire system (col. 5, lines 13-28).

Conclusion

12. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

- a. "Basic architecture of HSM sets it apart from backup" discloses software for facilitating network storage of files.

- b. "Daticon Systems ..." discloses an Internet database application for document management.
- c. "The role of tape-based storage ..." discloses the role of tape based systems in storage area networks.
13. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Alexander Kalinowski, whose telephone number is (703) 305-2398. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday to Thursday from 9:00 AM to 6:30 PM. In addition, the examiner can be reached on alternate Fridays.

If any attempt to reached the examiner by telephone is unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Joseph Thomas, can be reached on (703) 305-9588. The fax telephone number for this group is (703) 305-7687 (for official communications including After Final communications labeled "Box AF").

Hand delivered responses should be brought to Crystal Park 5, 2451 Crystal Drive, Arlington, VA, 7th Floor, receptionist.



Alexander Kalinowski

Primary Examiner

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3/20/04